



## **Delegation from Chinese radio and television**

SYDNEY: A delegation of members of the Chinese radio and television industry, led by Mr Tian Congming, Vice-Minister of the Ministry of Radio, Film and Television, visited the ABA in December 1997. Mr Tian was accompanied by Mr Zhang Zhendong, Ms Zhou Guizhen and Mr Yuan Xiaoping from the Ministry; Mr Liu Baoshun, the Vice President of China Central Television; Mr Wang Jianru the Deputy Director-General of China National Radio; and Mr Shi Chunyong, correspondent for China Radio International in Sydney. The delegation met with Professor David Flint ABA Chairman, Mr Gareth Grainger Deputy Chairman, and staff members.

The delegation was interested in radio and television broadcasting regulation in Australia. Discussion covered issues such as categories of service, how licences are allocated, licence conditions, codes, and complaints handling.

## **Hong Kong Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority**

SYDNEY: Mr Eddy Chan, Commissioner of the Hong Kong Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority (TELA), accompanied by Ms Camy Kwan-hung Mak, Principal Entertainment Standards Control Officer (Film), visited the ABA on 9 December 1997. They met with Professor David Flint, ABA Chairman; Mr Gareth Grainger, Deputy Chairman; Ms Pat Manser, Director of Policy and Communications; and Ms Phyllis Fong, Policy Manager.

Discussions centered on regulation as it applies to digital services, particularly as multimedia services and video-on-demand (VOD) are now available in Hong Kong. Mr Chan explained that Hong Kong services providing VOD were treated similarly to pay TV, including having a code of practice. All videos in Hong Kong are classified by TELA before they are made available for viewing.

Hong Kong is positioning itself for an explosion of new services in the next year or two and TELA is therefore interested in learning how other regulators are dealing with new media and Internet services. TELA is also interested in learning from the experience of other regulators with regard to satellite broadcasting, in particular transborder issues.

There was also some discussion of different approaches to complaint handling. TELA receives between three and four hundred complaints a year, most of which concern language, violence and advertising. Complaints are lodged directly with TELA. TELA also develops the codes of practice which are then sent out for consultation before they are finalised for adoption by the Hong Kong Broadcasting Authority.

## **Japan Bar Associations**

SYDNEY: The ABA met with a large delegation from the Japan Federation of Bar Associations on 24 November 1997, to discuss the functions of the ABA generally, as well as issues of freedom of the media. The topics for discussions also included the rights of individuals who become the subject of media reports.

The exchange formed part of the ongoing development of international relationships in broadcasting regulation by the ABA.

L-R: Pat Manser ABA; Ms Camy Kwan-hung Mak, and Mr Eddy Chan, TELA; David Flint, Gareth Grainger, and Phyllis Fong ABA.

